

# WASHINGTON STATE

## EMERGENCY OPERATIONS OFFICER

### MONTHLY REPORT

### NOVEMBER 2006

CATEGORY	2006	2005	YTD 06	YTD 05
CSEPP INCIDENTS	2	5	52	71
DOE INCIDENTS	0	2	6	7
FIRE	32	36	344	341
HAZMAT	219	164	2055	1930
OTHER	49	29	446	303
911 OUTAGES	9	4	41	38
SAR	79	41	712	541
TERRORIST	0	0	1	0
WEATHER	6	7	55	70
CGS INCIDENTS	0	0	1	2
ESAR (NOT INCL IN TOTAL)	8	(2)	4	(56)
TOTAL	396	288	3713	3303

#### LEGEND

CSEPP	Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program
DOE	Department of Energy, Hanford Site
SAR	Search and Rescue Missions
HAZMAT	Hazardous Materials Incidents
WEATHER	Weather Incidents (throughout state, i.e., Flood, High Winds, and Snow)
CGS	Columbia Generating Station
FIRE	Forest Fire Incidents
OTHER	This category includes a wide variety of incidents, i.e., Tsunami, Earthquake, Critical Incident Stress Debriefings, Bomb Threat, etc...
911	911 Service Outages
ESAR	Evidence Search Mission (not included in total numbers)

#### SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

- On November 2, the National Weather Service issued a Winter Storm Warning for Pend Oreille, Stevens, and Spokane Counties from Thursday afternoon through Friday night November 3<sup>rd</sup>. Additionally, a Gale Warnings for all marine waters of Puget Sound and a Marine Storm Warning for the Washington Coast

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was issued at the same time. On November 4<sup>th</sup> a High Wind Warnings was also issued for Counties along the Washington Coast as well as a High Wind Watch for SW Washington in anticipation of the next series of weather fronts to pass through the state on November 5<sup>th</sup>. A Flood Warning for the Skokomish River in Mason County was then issued as this storm system moved into the state producing greater intensities of rain than was expected thus increasing the run-off into rivers in western Washington and extending the weather event much longer. Snohomish, Skagit and Clark Counties EOC's were activated to address the flooding in their individual county areas and on November 6<sup>th</sup> at 1100 hours, the Washington State EOC was activated to Phase III Full Operation. This extended major storm system effecting Western Washington resulted in all major rivers in Western Washington and parts of Eastern Washington to be near or above their flood stages. This weather event caused numerous jurisdictions to activate their local emergency operations centers due to widespread flooding, extensive closures to transportation systems and landslides. The state remained at Phase II at the end of this reporting period as a result of this wide-spread storm as damage assessments continued to be made for a possible Presidential disaster declaration and the anticipated long-term recovery efforts.

- On November 8, the Olympic National Park Service requested assistance in a search for two overdue hikers in the vicinity of Upper Lenna Lake. Pierce County provided three scent dogs and handlers to assist in the search. Both hikers walked out on their own in good condition.
- On November 8, Lewis County requested assistance in the search & rescue of up to 30 hunters trapped by floodwaters and snow above Packwood. Ground search and rescue plus 4 x 4 units from Thurston County were called out to assist. The search was finally closed on November 16<sup>th</sup> as the last few of the hunters were located.
- On November 14, the National Weather Service issued a series of watches and warnings as a strong pacific weather system approached the Washington Coast. This system was more short-lived than the one that produced record rainfall and flooding last week. Freezing levels rose to near 8000 feet and many locations in the mountains saw 2 to 5 inches of rain in a 12 to 18 hour period. Soils are saturated and some rivers already running high causing some rivers across Western Washington to go over flood stage late Wednesday or Thursday. Additional minor flooding occurred as a result of this latest storm system.

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- On November 15, the Alaska Tsunami Warning Center issued a Tsunami Advisory for Washington as a result of a magnitude 8.1 earthquake near the Kuril Islands north of Japan. The Alaska Tsunami Warning Center later raised the Tsunami Advisory to a Tsunami Watch for Cape Flattery and points north. All Advisory, Watches and Warnings were cancelled later in the morning when it became evident that a Tsunami was not generated.
- On November 15, The National Weather Service issued a series of Weather Watches and Warnings for many areas of Washington due to a large low pressure system entering the state. Many areas experienced high winds with some rivers again under Flood Warnings. Winter Storm Warnings were also issued for the central and eastern part of the state. The final flood warning for the Skokomish River in Mason County was cancelled at 2141 hours on November 16<sup>th</sup> by Seattle Weather as the storm dissipated and moved out of the state. Additional flooding and wind damage occurred throughout the region as a result of this storm system.
- On November 18, the National Weather System issued more weather warnings as a new storm system approached Washington State. High Wind Warnings and a High Surf Advisory was posted for Pacific County, a High Wind Warning was also issued for Wahkiakum County and a Gale Warning issued for the northern inland waters of western Washington and the San Juan Islands. This weather event ended the following day with no major damage reported.
- On November 18, Skamania County opened a search for a missing 63 year-old hunter in the Gifford Pinchot National Forrest near Sunset Falls. Resources from Clark, Cowlitz Counties were coordinated to assist in the search. The hunter walked out of the area and was discovered around 1200 hours the following day closing the search effort.
- On November 19, King County opened a search in the Denny Creek Trailhead area east of North Bend for a missing 31 year-old female hiker. Resources from Pierce, Snohomish, Skagit, Thurston, Yakima, Kitsap Counties and Navy Whidbey were coordinated to assist in the search. The subject was retrieved by USN helicopter and transported to Harborview around 0230 p.m. the next day after an exhaustive search effort.

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- On November 20, The National Weather Service issued a series of Weather Watches and Warnings for many areas of Washington due to a large low pressure system entering the state. Many areas experienced high winds with some rivers again under Flood Warnings. Winter Storm Warnings and Heavy Snow Warnings were also issued for the central and eastern part of the state. The final flood warning for the Skokomish River in Mason County was cancelled at 0411 hours on November 22<sup>nd</sup> by Seattle Weather as the storm dissipated and moved out of the state. Additional wind damage occurred throughout the region as a result of this storm system. The final Heavy Snow Warning expired at 0400 A.M. on November 25th ending this weather event
- On November 25, the National Weather Service in Spokane issued a series of High Wind, Heavy Snow and Winter Storm Watches and Warnings that encompassed much of the state as a new weather front moved into the state. Significant amounts of snow fell in the higher elevations of the state as well as some lowland counties with the last two Counties terminating their Weather Warnings on November 30<sup>th</sup> at 0800 a.m. officially closing this event.
- On November 28, Kitsap County Sheriff's office commenced a search for a missing 60 year-old female that walked away from her treatment facility in NE Bremerton. Additional ground search personnel and dog teams from Pierce, King and Thurston Counties assisted in the search. The missing subject was located late on November 29 deceased.
- On November 29, Mason County Sheriff's office commenced a search for a family of four who became lost in the snow and darkness near Lake Cushman. All-Terrain-Vehicle (ATVs) teams from Thurston County responded to assist. The family was located during the early morning hours on November 30 and brought to safety.
- For the month of November the SEOO's:
  - Issued 264 warnings to jurisdictions for imminent or occurring emergencies
  - Issued 117 warnings to tribal nations for imminent or occurring emergencies

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- Conducted 1,511 notifications to state agency liaisons for imminent or occurring emergencies
- Coordinated 74 resources for search, rescue, recovery and response operations
- Participated in 30 exercises of which 22 were vessel spill drills
- Made 1,612 and answered 1,909 telephone calls
- Conducted 1,736 National Warning System Tests, conducted 252 Comprehensive Emergency Management Network (CEMNET) radio tests. (connects all counties and many cities via Zetron Radio Console)
- Conducted 57 dedicated line tests with the Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program (CSEPP)
- Conducted 4 dedicated line tests with the Department of Energy, Hanford Site (DOE)
- Conducted 6 dedicated line tests with the Columbia Generating Station (CGS)